

1 **Q. Ms. Tomlinson, please state your name, business address, and**
2 **occupation.**

3 A. My name is MaryBeth Tomlinson. My business address is 4720 Piedmont
4 Row Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina, I am employed as Manager of Gas
5 Accounting at Piedmont Natural Gas Company ("Piedmont" or the
6 "Company").

7 **Q. Are you the same MaryBeth Tomlinson who prefiled direct testimony in**
8 **this docket on June 1, 2017?**

9 A. Yes, I am.

10 **Q. What is the purpose of your settlement testimony in this proceeding?**

11 A. I will discuss and offer testimony in support of the Settlement Agreement
12 reached by the parties of record ("Parties") in the Annual Review of
13 Purchased Gas Adjustment and Gas Purchasing Policies of Piedmont.

14 **Q. Please describe the Settlement Agreement reached by the Parties and**
15 **filed with the Commission on July 6, 2017.**

16 A. The Settlement Agreement affirms the Parties concurrence that:

- 17 1) Piedmont's gas purchasing policies and practices during the Review
18 Period were reasonable and prudent;
- 19 2) Piedmont properly adhered to the gas cost recovery provisions of its gas
20 tariff and relevant Commission Orders during the Review Period;
- 21 3) Piedmont managed its hedging program during the Review Period in a
22 reasonable and prudent manner consistent with Commission Orders; and

1 4) The end-of-period balances for Piedmont's hedging and deferred gas
2 cost accounts are those reflected in my prefiled direct testimony.

3 **Q. Is it the opinion of Piedmont that the Commission's approval of the**
4 **Settlement Agreement is in the interest of Piedmont and the public**
5 **interest?**

6 A. Yes. Following extensive review, examination, and discussions between
7 Piedmont and the ORS, both Parties agreed to each of the matters stipulated
8 above. The Settlement is offered by all Parties as a fair, reasonable and full
9 resolution of all issues in this proceeding as signified by all parties being
10 signatories to the Settlement Agreement. Piedmont believes that the
11 Settlement Agreement reached by the Parties in this docket balances the
12 concerns of the using and consuming public while preserving the financial
13 integrity of Piedmont and that the Settlement Agreement does not inhibit
14 economic development.

15 **Q. What is your recommendation to the Commission with respect to the**
16 **Settlement Agreement?**

17 A. Piedmont recommends that the Commission approve the Settlement
18 Agreement as filed in this proceeding.

19 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

20 A. Yes it does.